

El BUCANERO

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The Bucaneros leave their mark in FIDAE!



Santiago, Chile - The crew of Corso 79 won over the hearts of the Chilean people during FIDAE 2006, held in Santiago, Chile 24 March to 2 April, where they proudly represented the Puerto Rico Air National Guard by showcasing the 156th Airlift wing's C-130. During FIDAE the Bucaneros also conducted airborne operations at the air show with the Chilean Air Force premier sky-diving team the "Boinas Azules" and with the Chilean Air Force Special Operation Forces in Quintero, Chile. Mutual respect and friendship was established between the Bucaneros and the members of the elite units. Throughout FIDAE, a special bond was also created between the crew and the children from "Make a Wish" and "Coaniquem" Foundations during the children's visits to the aircraft and the crew's visit to the children at the Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital in Santiago.



Los Bucaneros del PRANG en FIDAE 2006

Artículo escrito por Carolina R. Cabezas,
Periodista FIDAE 2006



El escuadrón Aéreo 198 de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico, conocido como 'Los Bucaneros', estuvieron entregando sus conocimientos y también su alegría, a bordo del C-130 de la USAF.

Estando en la Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio, FIDAE 2006, Los Bucaneros participaron activamente de todas las actividades que coordinó la USAF. Como por ejemplo, la visita al Hospital Calvo Mackenna donde el Capitán Luis Martínez, conocido como el Mago Luigi, encantó a los niños con sus trucos de magia, y donde la tripulación del C-130 regaló sonrisa a los pequeños. Compartieron también con los niños de Make A Wish y COANIQUEM, y participaron de la muestra estática de la Feria.

Durante su estadía en nuestro país, aprovecharon la oportunidad para realizar operaciones de interoperatividad, donde sirvieron de transporte Aéreo para que los paracaidistas de las Fuerzas Especiales de la FACH, realizaran entrenamiento en el Regimiento de Artillería Antiaérea de Quinteros.

Respecto a esta actividad, el Teniente Coronel Rafael Benítez, de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Puerto Rico, declaró 'Nos ha encantado trabajar con ellos porque nos hace sentir como hermanos con los chilenos.'

Acerca del trabajo realizado con los Boinas Azules de la Fuerza Aérea de Chile, el oficial a cargo de los 'Bucaneros' señaló que 'la cooperación ha sido estu-
penda, ojalá ellos puedan ir a Puerto Rico para hacer lo mismo'.

El Teniente Coronel Rafael Benítez declaró que esperan participar en las próximas versiones de la Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio, y agregó 'No podemos esperar para que sea FIDAE 2008'.

Grupo de Bucaneros en FIDAE 2006:

Lt. Col. Rafael Benítez, DETCO

Capt. Carlos J. Borges, Aircraft Commander

1st. Lt. Danielle Lewis, Co-Pilot

Capt. Luis Martínez, Navigator

Senior Master Sgt. Roberto Escabí, Flight Engineer

Master Sgt. Pedro Verdejo, Load Master

Tech. Sgt. William Santini, Load Master

Staff Sgt. Jorge Bon, Load Master

Master Sgt. Luis E. Vicenty, Maintenance Superintendent

Tech. Sgt. Edwin Hernandez, Aviation Mechanic

Tech. Sgt. José Santos, Hydraulic Systems Specialist

Tech. Sgt. José Melendez, Electric Systems Specialist

Staff Sgt. Yvhan Santiago, Engine Specialist

Staff Sgt. Claudia Rabaza, Instrument and Flight Control Specialist

Staff Sgt. Pedro Padilla, Communications and Navigation Specialist

Master Sgt. Samuel Domínguez, Life Support Specialist

Maj. Ricardo D. Castrodad, Public Affairs Officer

"Boinas Azules" and the "Bucaneros" conduct airborne operations at FIDAE



Above: The "Bucaneros" and "Boinas Azules" take a group photo 28 March before the initial jump of the Chilean Air force elite sky diving team at FIDAE 2006.



Above: A member of the "Boinas Azules" wearing the 198th Airlift Squadron patch on his helmet prepares to identify the drop zone moments before their opening jump at FIDAE.



The "Boinas Azules" assist each other in making final adjustments to their gear moments before exiting the C-130 aircraft.



Left: The "Boinas Azules" exit in group formation from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard C-130 flying over the FIDAE airfield March 28. It was the first time the group jumped together from the ramp of a C-130, they stated that the jump was a lot faster then when they jump from other aircraft. They look forward to continue to challenge themselves by conducting additional ramp jumps from C-130 aircraft.



A member of the "Boinas Azules" prepares to land at the FIDAE airfield during the opening jump of the airshow.



Capt. Borges "facing front," 198th Airlift Squadron pilot, embraces a member of the "Boinas Azules" during a small ceremony 29 March celebrating a successful airborne operation.

1st. Lt. Danielle Lewis, mission copilot, exchanges memorabilia with a member of the "Boinas Azules."



Lt. Col. Rafael Benitez shakes the hand of the "Boinas Azules" commander during a ceremony acknowledging the respect and friendship between both units, after they demonstrated the joint interoperability capability between the U.S. and Chilean Air Force.

"Bucaneros," "El Mago Luigi" visit hospitalized children in Santiago



Capt. Luis Martinez, 198th Airlift Squadron C-130 navigator, brought out many smiles from the children at the Luis McKenna Hospital in Santiago, Chile during the 2 April U.S. Air Force delegation visit to the hospital from FIDAE.

Capt. Martinez performed for the children that resulted in his crew naming him "El Mago Luigi" for his talent to captivate the children with his numerous magic tricks.



Make a Wish, Coaniquem children visit Bucaneros in FIDAE



Left: Tech. Sgt. Edwin Hernandez, C-130 aviation mechanic, gives a tour of the C-130 cockpit to the children that visited the aircraft.



Left: Children look with amazement as Capt. Luis Martinez, C-130 navigator, performs magic tricks for the children in the cargo area of the aircraft.



Above: Master Sgt. Samuel Dominguez, Life Support Specialist, assists a child with the use of life support equipment in the C-130.





PRANG C-130 Static Display FIDAE 2006

The crew of the Bucaneros C-130 takes numerous pictures with the Chilean children and visitors at FIDAE.



A Chilean child recovering from an operation is thrilled to enter the wing's C-130, it was the first time he was able to sit inside the cockpit of an aircraft.



Chilean Air Force and U.S. Air Force press group take a joint photo 2 April during the final day of FIDAE



Tech. Sgt. Edwin Hernandez fuels the Puerto Rico Air National Guard C-130 prior to conducting an airborne operation 31 March.

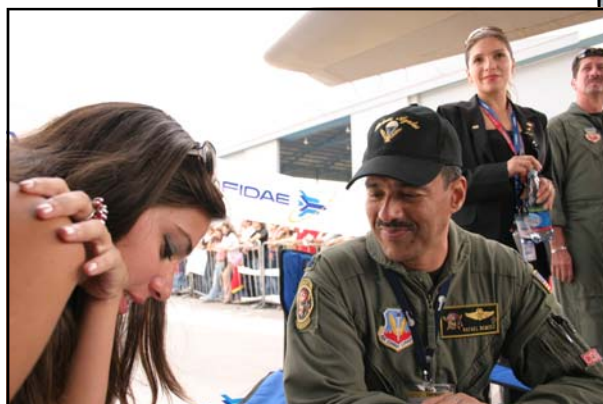


Capt. Carlos J. Borges, 198th Airlift Squadron C-130 pilot, and 1st. Lt. Danielle Lewis, 198th Airlift Squadron C-130 copilot, test Boeing's simulator 2 April showcasing Boeing's C-130 Avionics Modernization Program and avionics instrument display at FIDAE.

Capt. Carlos J. Borges and 1st. Lt. Danielle Lewis take a picture with Boeing's representative Richard H. Barber, bottom right, Systems Engineer Avionics Systems for Military Aircraft.



Throughout the FIDAE air show the Buccaneers received a continuous flow of visitors and international media.



Lt. Col. Rafael Benitez is interviewed by FIDAE reporter, Carolina R. Cabezas, while the C-130 was on static display 3 April.



Chilean Air Force "Halcones" Team Leader shares a moment with the crew of the "Bucaneros" talking about the elite acrobatic flying unit of Chile.

BUCANEROS conduct airborne operations with Chilean Special Forces

Chilean soldiers conducted High Altitude Low Opening and Static Line airborne operations with the "Bucaneros" in Quintero, Chile, 30-31 March. They maximized the use of the wing's aircraft during the Bucaneros participation in FIDAE.



Being able to conduct airborne operations with Chilean Special Forces demonstrated the joint interoperability capability that is possible between the U.S. and Chilean armed forces.



A special bond was created between the Bucaneros and the elite unit from the Chilean Special Forces. "Having the Chilean special forces jump from our aircraft made it feel like they were are brothers," said Lt. Col. Rafael Benitez, C-130 mission commander in FIDAE.





Above: Chilean Special Forces prepare to board the Puerto Rico Air National Guard C-130 in Quintero, Chile prior to conducting static line airborne operations with full combat gear 31 March.



Above: Chilean Comandos take a photo in Quintero, Chile with 1st. Lt. Danielle Lewis, 198th Airlift Squadron C-130 copilot.
Left: Chilean Special Forces stand ready to jump 31 March, awaiting the go ahead from their jump master minutes before reaching the drop zone.

Right: U.S. Air Force KC-10 and F-16 Air Refueling.
Below: B-1 Bomber Static Display's at FIDAE.





Aerial Photos of
U.S. Air Force
F-15 and F-16
demonstration
teams at FIDAE.



Bucaneros final approach in Quintero, Chile



Chilean "Halcones" demonstration team leader acrobatic aircraft.



Tornado



"Mirage"



Brazilian Air Force demonstration team acrobatic aircraft at FIDAE.



FIDAE Aerial Photos





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